

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present patent application claims priority on U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/564,963, filed on Apr. 26, 2004, now expired ~~by the present applicant.~~

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] FIG. 3 shows a system using the instrument illustrated in FIG. 1. The system used for identifying an instrument in a high precision environment is generally shown at 310. A computer 312, comprising a database (dB) 314 is shown. The database 314 may already contain part of the geometrical characteristics of the instruments (such as generic information). The information can be completed with the results of the measurements taken in step 210 in order to take into account the small variations from one instrument to another. The computer 312 can be part of a CAS system (not shown). The computer 312 is connected, through link 318, to a reader 316.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] The machine readable format may be a bar code. The bar code format can be a linear format as shown in Fig. 4 or a 2-dimensional matrix bar code permitting higher data density marking as shown in Figs. 5a and 5b.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] The instrument 320 is marked with machine reader format data (MRDF) 324. The data 324 marked on the instrument 320 contains the true parameters of the instrument 320. These true parameters relate to identification of the instrument and accurate dimensions of the instrument 320 measured after manufacturing.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] When the data 324 on the instrument 320 is read by the reader 316 and transmitted to computer 346 312, through link 322, computer 346 312 identifies the instrument 320. It can get generic characteristics about the instrument 320 from the database 314. With the precise measurements read from the machine reader format data 324, the computer 346 312 can adjust the characteristics of instrument 320.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0042]:

We claim: